

# Glossary of Terms

**Blended learning** – The unique pedagogy of the Graduate School which combines interactive online learning, field-based residentials, and student practica implemented in their own communities.

**Brain drain** – The term used to describe the particularly third-world phenomenon of losing professionals to better-paying jobs outside the country.

**Change agents** – Development practitioners (in this case our students) seeking to make a difference at the community level.

**Civil Society Organization (CSO)** – Very similar to a non-governmental organization. In our context, CSO is used to differentiate Future Generations (up until now referred to as the NGO) from the Future Generations Graduate School

**Community change** – The mission of all component organizations of Future Generations. We believe that lasting change begins at the grass-roots level.

**Community development** – The broad discipline which covers all issues which have a direct impact on the welfare of communities, such as public health care, environment and conservation, income generation, peace-building, women’s empowerment, and leadership.

**Country programs** – Future Generations-China, Future Generations-India, Future Generations-Afghanistan, Future Generations-Arunachal Pradesh, and Future Generations-Peru. All are affiliates of Future Generations, the parent organization, which is headquartered in Pendleton County, West Virginia.

**Dim Dim** – A web conferencing platform which simulates a classroom. The moderator can communicate with participants through voice discussions (“passing the microphone”), an online chat room, a white board, and PowerPoint.

**Interactive online learning** – The component of *blended learning* which enables students to learn and participate via computer applications from their remote global locations.

**Moodle** - An interactive online platform similar to Blackboard which enables online threaded discussions, the posting of assignments and documents, and record-keeping.

**Partnerships** – Collaboration which enables Future Generations to attain its mission of teaching and enabling a process for community change. These partnerships include institutions of higher education, non-governmental organizations, governments, and communities in the U.S. and abroad, including the organizations represented by our students.

**Practicum** – The component of *blended learning* which allows students to apply what they are learning and engage in their community throughout the Master’s degree. Through an applied research approach or a project approach, students explore causes and potential solutions to a community problem.

**Residential** – The component of *blended learning* which gives students the opportunity to observe global best practice sites in community development. Students travel to India, the U.S., Peru, Nepal, and Tibet for four one-month residencies during the Master’s program.

**Seed-Scale** – The community development model employed by Future Generations which encompasses the following principles: 1) building from success; 2) creating three-way partnerships; 3) making evidence-based decisions; and 4) seeking behavior change as key outcome.

**Three-way partnership** – Partnerships which come from the top-down (government), the bottom-up (communities), and the outside-in (other organizations and consultants).

**100 nodes of change** – Part of the Future Generations Vision Statement. In order to achieve community change, there needs to be a growing network of formal and informal partnerships. The graduate students are critical to this ever expanding network.